To the Right Honourable the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes Aſſembled in Parliament.

The *EAST-INDIA* Company's Anſwer to the Petition of *John Jolliffe* and *Edmond Harriſon* in behalf of themſelves and others.

THE ſaid Company ſay, That they believe the Petitioners and others might ſend ſuch a Ship as they mention, on an Interloping Voyage to *India*, but know not to what Value the Cargo might amount, becauſe no part of it ever came into their hands or the hands of any of their Servants, to the Companies knowledge, though they have heard the Cargo was conſigned to one *Boucher* and others, whom the Company had put out of their Service for breach of their Truſt, who were Men of Expenſive Lives, took upon them to be Perſons under a Publick Character, and as ſuch, without any Commiſſion from His Majeſty aſſumed a Chargeable Equipage, and addreſſed themſelves to the Great *Mogul*'s Court to make a Treaty of Commerce, and procure a *Phirmaund* for the *New Company*, as they called the *Interlopers*. By the charge of which Attempt and the weight of their own great Debts before contracted, they were reduced to ſuch Neceſſities, as diſabled them from making any returns of the ſaid Cargoe.

The ſaid Company have likewiſe been informed, That if the ſaid *Boucher*, and the reſt, had been in any condition to load the ſaid Ship with the returns of her Cargoe, ſhe might have come out of *Surrat* River while the Kings Ship *Phœnix* was on a Voyage to *Muſcat*, as well as after the *Phœnix* was come away for *England*, as the *China Merchant* did.

The Company have alſo been informed, That the Judges of Admiralty appointed by His Majeſty's Commiſſion, as well as by the Company, did according to their duty condemn the Ship *Adventure*, and make demand of her from the Governour of *Surrat* to the uſe of his Majeſty and the Company, but have not heard that ſhe was delivered by the ſaid Governour, nor any part of her Cargoe.

The Company have further heard, That Captain *Goodlad* died of a Lingering Feaver, and that Mr. *Pettit*, one of the Petitioners Factors was taken in an *Eaſt-India* built Ship by the *Sangana*'s (being Native Pyrates) his Ship blown up, and himſelf wounded, of which wounds he dyed on ſhoar in the *Sangana*'s Country. And Mr. *Boucher* their other principal Factor that had the whole Cargoe in Poſſeſſion, as the Company have heard was alive when the laſt Ship came from *Surrat*. VVhat the Petitioners mean by the ſcandalous ſuggeſtion of Poyſon or whom they ſuſpect, the Company do not underſtand, having never heard one word of any ſuch doubt or ſuſpicion from Interlopers or others before they ſaw it in the Petition.

To the Charge of adviſing his Late Majeſty to ſend one of His Majeſties Ships of VVar to ſuppreſs the Interlopers of *India*, as he did to the *African Coaſt* to preſerve the Royal Companies Intereſt from ſuch injurious Attempts: The Company think it is enough to ſay, It was their Duty Humbly to inform his Majeſty of the Diſeaſe, the Contagious Nature, the dangerous Symptoms and Prognoſticks of it; His Majeſty's own greater VViſdom and Foreſight directed the Remedies he found moſt neceſſary to conſerve the reputation of this Nation, and the Trades, Dominion, and Naval Power of this Kingdom in thoſe remote parts of the VVorld.